

Community Technology Centers' Network

RECEIVED

April 12, 1999

APR 19 4 55 PM '99

William Kennard, Chairman, FCC
Office of the Secretary of the FCC
445 12th St. SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

RECEIVED

MAY 18 1999

Attention: Ex parte filing in CC Docket # 98-141, SBC-Ameritech Merger

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Kennard,

As the Executive Director of the Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet), I am writing to express our concern about the possible negative effects of the proposed SBC-Ameritech merger and suggest some areas for possible action to address them. CTCNet is a support project and membership organization for more than 250 community agencies that are establishing technology access and education programs, primarily for low-income communities, and a large portion of our membership lies within the SBC-Ameritech footprint, so we are clearly experienced and interested in these matters.

SBC and Ameritech are both already large corporations that have uneven records in providing services to low-income residents although public interest negotiations on a number of levels have helped insure the establishment and maintenance of services for those most in need. With the further development of advanced telecommunications technology and services, we are especially concerned that these communities not be left further behind. Special funds for a range of low-income services, earmarking a portion for local community centers, have certainly made a major difference in recent negotiations with each separate partner, and we urge that avenue continue to be developed further during the FCC's upcoming deliberations. It will be also important to provide anti-redlining guarantees when advanced services are deployed as well as broadband availability for all within a reasonable period of time.

We trust these concerns and our suggestions will be duly taken into considerations as you proceed, and we look forward to following your work over the next several months.

Very truly yours,


Holly M. Carter, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Robert Atkinson, Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau
Thomas Krattenmaker, Director of Research, Office of Plans and Policy
Bill Dever, Room 5-C207

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.
55 CHAPEL STREET
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02158-1060
TELEPHONE: 617/969-7100 X2727
FAX: 617/969-4902; INTERNET: CTCNET@EDC.ORG

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

042



Community Technology Centers' Network

April 12, 1999

William Kennard, Chairman, FCC
Office of the Secretary of the FCC
445 12th St. SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Ex parte filing in CC Docket # 98-141, SBC-Ameritech Merger

Dear Chairman Kennard,

As the Executive Director of the Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet), I am writing to express our concern about the possible negative effects of the proposed SBC-Ameritech merger and suggest some areas for possible action to address them. CTCNet is a support project and membership organization for more than 250 community agencies that are establishing technology access and education programs, primarily for low-income communities, and a large portion of our membership lies within the SBC-Ameritech footprint, so we are clearly experienced and interested in these matters.

SBC and Ameritech are both already large corporations that have uneven records in providing services to low-income residents although public interest negotiations on a number of levels have helped insure the establishment and maintenance of services for those most in need. With the further development of advanced telecommunications technology and services, we are especially concerned that these communities not be left further behind. Special funds for a range of low-income services, earmarking a portion for local community centers, have certainly made a major difference in recent negotiations with each separate partner, and we urge that avenue continue to be developed further during the FCC's upcoming deliberations. It will be also important to provide anti-redlining guarantees when advanced services are deployed as well as broadband availability for all within a reasonable period of time.

We trust these concerns and our suggestions will be duly taken into considerations as you proceed, and we look forward to following your work over the next several months.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly M. Carter", is positioned above the printed name.

Holly M. Carter, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Robert Atkinson, Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau
Thomas Krattenmaker, Director of Research, Office of Plans and Policy
Bill Dever, Room 5-C207

EDC